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POLITICAL SITUATION IN KWANGSI REVIEWED

According to a competent observer, Pai Chung-hai is using the period of uncertain peace talks to develop a strong base of resistance in central Kwangsi.

Political and military needs go hand in hand, so there has been talk of a change in governorship. Early in 1948, when Communist troops were knocking at the gates of Anhwei, there were strong rumors that Li P'in-hsien would be moved from Anhwei to Kwangsi, but this did not happen chiefly because the Kwangsi clique wished to retain both spheres of power, Anhwei and Kwangsi. Now, however, the situation has changed. Anhwei is still in the hands of the Kwangsi clique, and with Kwangsi facing a military crisis, the leadership of a military man like Li is needed. The major-domo role of Huang Hsi-ch'u is no longer suitable.

In ability, Huang is on a par with Li Tsung-jen and Pai Chung-hai. Ten years ago Li-Pai-Huang's triumvirate was well known. Their interests became varied; Li specialized in politics, Pai in military matters, and both were occupied elsewhere while Huang was left at home as a sort of "housekeeper." This onerous role he has played well, making for himself a solid throne of power in Kwangsi. While Li and Pai were gaining experience on the national scene, however, Huang, for more than a decade, was busy with maintaining order in Kwangsi, and was thus sealed off from national politics. This situation has occasioned the present talk of Huang's removal from his post.

Meanwhile, Huang's talents are still being greatly utilized in the service of the province. Recently, under his leadership, Kwangsi has been preparing to use American aid. On a recent visit here, two representatives of the Rural Reconstruction Commission, Yen Yang-ch'u ("Jimmy Yen") and Baker, made studies and plans to this end. Yen has a high regard for what has already been done in this province, and indicates that US \$200,000 may be appropriated for irrigation, stock-breeding, and other forms of rural improvement.

In this connection, a Kwangsi port is much needed. This province has been too long dependent on Kwangtung in this regard. The authorities are pressing for the opening of Wu-chow as a port of entry into the province.

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